Responsible Department/Division/Committee:

Emergency Department/Blood Bank

Policy:

The Emergency Department (ED) Blood Refrigerator is used to store blood products that may be obtained and used emergently for select clinical indications.

Definitions:

Authorized provider - An individual permitted by law and Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) to provide care, treatment and services within the scope of licensure and/or consistent with individually granted privileges.

Procedures:

1. Criteria for use - Blood products are obtained from the ED Blood Refrigerator for patients experiencing hemorrhagic shock.
2. Blood product inventory – The Emergency Department Blood Refrigerator is stocked with four units each of O Negative red blood cells (RBCs) and Group A Thawed Plasma.
3. Removal of blood products
a. Blood products are obtained from the ED Blood Refrigerator under the direction of an ED or Trauma Service Attending Physician.
   i. If available, the order for blood products may be entered by another authorized provider as directed by the ED or Trauma Service Attending Physician.
   ii. A verbal order may be accepted as per RC0063 Telephone and Verbal Orders until an order can be entered in the patient’s medical record.

b. Blood products are retrieved from the ED Blood Refrigerator by an ED Critical Care RN (with current critical care competencies) as per the ED Blood Refrigerator Blood Product Release Procedure.

c. Blood products not used within 30 minutes of removal from the ED Blood Refrigerator may not be administered as per PC0140 Transfusion of Blood and Blood Products.

d. All blood products removed from the ED Blood Refrigerator and not used are promptly returned to the Blood Bank (and not the ED Blood Refrigerator).

4. Restocking of blood products

   a. Only a Charge RN or Blood Bank staff member may place blood products in the ED Blood Refrigerator to re-stock inventory.

   b. Blood products are placed in the ED Blood Refrigerator as per the ED Blood Refrigerator Restocking Procedure.

   c. Blood products that have been removed from the ED Blood Refrigerator are not to be returned to the refrigerator.

   d. The Emergency Department Blood Bank refrigerator is not to be used to temporarily store blood products obtained directly from the Blood Bank for a specific patient.

5. Inventory reconciliation

   a. ED Blood Refrigerator inventory reconciliation is performed by a Charge RN, T/R III or Blood Bank staff member at the following times:
      i. At the end of each shift;
      ii. Any time there is a question as to the inventory status;
      iii. After each use.
b. Any discrepancy in the inventory will result in a suspension of use of the Emergency Department Blood Refrigerator. The following are notified immediately of the discrepancy:
   i. Blood Bank Supervisor (who is responsible to notify the Blood Bank Medical Director);
   ii. Emergency Department Charge RN (who is responsible to notify appropriate ED medical and nursing leadership).
   c. Use of the refrigerator will remain suspended until the Blood Bank Medical Director determines that the issue has been resolved and that it is safe to be put back into service.

6. **Refrigerator malfunction** – Incidences of Emergency Department Refrigerator malfunction are reported immediately to the Blood Bank supervisor for assessment and appropriate action.

7. **Downtime procedures**
   a. **During computer downtime** – Emergency Department Blood Refrigerator is not available for use and computer downtime procedures are followed for obtaining blood products from the Blood Bank.
   b. **Refrigerator downtime** – In the event that the refrigerator is down, blood products are obtained from the Blood Bank as per **PC0140 Transfusion of Blood and Blood Products**.

**Forms:**
None

**Policy Cross Reference:**
- **PC0140 Transfusion of Blood and Blood Products**

**Relevant Standards/Codes/Rules/Regulations/Statutes:**
- JC PC.05.01.09

**References and Resources:**
- **ED Blood Refrigerator Blood Product Release Procedure**
- **ED Blood Refrigerator Restocking Procedure**